



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2009**

**Stuart Zaichkin, Public Relations Director
Cell: (360) 870-8689
Email: zaichksa@plu.edu**

MediaLab at PLU wins Emmy Award

TACOMA, Wash.—Four student researcher-filmmakers in Pacific Lutheran University's MediaLab program won a 2009 College Division Emmy Award Saturday, May 30, 2009 at the 46th Annual Northwest Regional Emmy Awards Ceremony held at the Snoqualmie Casino.

Junior Melissa Campbell and seniors Julie Olds, Shannon Schrecengost and Emilie Firn were honored for their originally produced "Illicit Exchanges: Canada, the U.S. & Crime," a 30-minute film that explores the effects of crime, drugs and gangs in communities across North America. The documentary won in the News Long Form category, competing against entries from colleges and universities in Alaska, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Research on "Illicit Exchanges" began in October 2007, and the team began conducting interviews and filming in January 2008. Team members, who traveled nearly 10,000 miles across North America, devoted the spring and summer months to documenting the transfers and effects of illegal drugs and firearms that cross the U.S. and Canadian border. Their work resulted in the "Illicit Exchanges," which premiered at the Seattle Museum of History and Industry in October, 2008.

"We found that issues of crime, poverty, gangs and drugs existed in every community we visited," said Robert Marshall Wells, MediaLab's faculty adviser and an assistant professor of Communication at PLU. "This award just exemplifies the hard work and dedication that MediaLab students invest."

In addition to the Emmy, "Illicit Exchanges" has won other awards this year, including a national 2009 Honorable Mention Award from the Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts in the long-form documentary category, as well as a First Place Grand Prize Award from the National Broadcasting Society.